



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2008

Council Members & Liaisons Present

Paul Herrmann (Chair), Joyce Finkelstein (Vice-Chair), Lynn Adler, Kati Bates, Bill Engler, George A. Evanoff, Bernadine Hoffman, Sharon McKinley, Doyle Meredith, Bernadette Polley, Barry Spiker, Rex Critchfield (DES), Jill Harrison (WACOG/AAA), Erin Klug (DOI), PJ Schoenstene (AHCCCS)

Council Members and Liaisons Not Present

Marilyn Johnson, Ramona Rusinak (DHS), Pam Stevenson (AG)

Council Staff Present

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Shawn Trobia, Dan Plumhoff, Elsa Gaynor

Guests Present

Nancy Gilliam (Senator John Kyl's Office), Joy Cameron (American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging)

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Minutes & Chair's Report

Council Chair Paul Herrmann called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the February 8, 2008 meeting were reviewed and Council Chair Paul Herrmann identified the following discrepancies in need of amendment: 1) Mr. Herrman's name appears twice within the list of attending Council members and Liaisons, and 2) Ms. Lynn Larsen was in attendance on behalf of Mr. Rex Critchfield who was listed as present. *Doyle Meredith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Bill Engler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Additionally, Council Chair Paul Herrmann proposed that the Council considers removing either the April 3 & 4, 2008 or June 5 & 6, 2008 Committee and Council meetings from the Council calendar in order to cut associated costs from the Council's FY08 budget to assist in relieving overall budgetary constraints for the state. A discussion ensued among the Council members. *Bill Engler made a motion to remove the June 5 & 6, 2008 Committee and Council meetings from the Council calendar and Joyce Finkelstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Action Items Follow-Up and Executive Director's Report

Revised Timeline for Minutes & Agenda Production

Executive Director Melanie Starns provided a handout outlining the Council Staff's timeframe for producing Council and Committee minutes and agendas, so as to be in accordance with Public Meeting Laws, keep Council and Committee members informed of the status of both the

minutes and agendas, and allow Council and Committee members adequate time to submit any corresponding input that they might have to the Council Staff. The Council members agreed that this timeframe was acceptable. A copy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging 2008 Timeline for Minutes & Agenda Production is available through the Council Office.

Travel Reimbursements Update

Ms. Starns discussed the current status of pending Council member travel reimbursements, and apologized to the Council for the delay in reimbursing the monies owed. As individual Council members have complied with the state mandated changes to the travel policies and processes but have still not received the reimbursements due to them, Ms. Starns thanked the Council members for their patience in the matter and offered to fund the reimbursements through the Council's donations account if necessary. A discussion ensued, and Council Chair Paul Herrmann stated that he will draft a letter of inquiry to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Director, Ms. Tracy Wareing, in order to resolve the issue and expedite the delivery of reimbursements to Council members.

Speaking Engagements and Events

Ms. Starns provided descriptions and the locations and times of her speaking engagements and events for the month of March, 2008. A copy of Ms. Starns speaking engagements for the month of March is available through the Council Office.

Special Award

Ms. Starns discussed several of the recent periodicals and publications that have highlighted the current activities and accomplishments of the Arizona Mature Worker Initiative (MWI), and she congratulated the Council on receiving the "Crystal Award" honoring individuals and organizations for community service, an award to be presented by A.T. Still University during a March 28, 2008 awards event at the J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix. At the chairman's request, Ms. Starns will receive the award on the Council's behalf.

Committee Reports and Voting on Committee Motions

Executive Committee

Council Chair Paul Herrmann reported that the Executive Committee discussed the upcoming March 13, 2008 Caregiver Coalition Rally, and Mr. Doyle Meredith provided an overview of the event and extended an invitation for all Council members to attend. Additionally, Mr. Herrmann informed the Council members of the Council Staff's recent "staff development activity" at the Devonshire Senior Center in Phoenix, and of Ms. Starns and Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa's intent to make such visits to sites that highlight senior related programs and services a regular occurrence within the Council Office.

Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee

Committee Chair Sharon McKinley provided a brief overview of the presentation delivered to the Legislative Policy Coordinating Committee at the March 6, 2008 meeting by Mr. Gregg Kiely, Program Manager, Public Transportation Division (PTD) Special Needs Transportation at the Arizona Department of Transportation, and Ms. McKinley stated that she thought Mr. Kiely's presentation was thought provoking and well done. Ms. McKinley also noted that the

Committee will continue working to identify three to four potential speakers from within the fields of transit and dental care to present at future Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee meetings. Additionally, Ms. McKinley discussed H2506, a bill that is currently being “held” in the state legislature which proposes regulations for the establishment of reverse mortgage loans. Ms. McKinley brought forth a motion from the March 6, 2008 Legislative Policy Coordinating Committee meeting requesting that the Council support the intent of H2506 and draft a letter expressing that support to the state legislature. A discussion ensued, and the Council members spoke to the necessity of establishing strong protections for older Arizonans at risk because of the current lack of regulations on reverse mortgage loans, and of the transparency and clarity that a full disclosure of the terms and conditions of such loans could provide. *Mr. George Evanoff made a motion to support the concept of strong protections and full disclosure for reverse mortgage loans contained within H2506, and to draft a letter formally expressing the Council’s support of those concepts to the appropriate individuals in the state legislature. Ms. Joyce Finkelstein seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.* A copy of H2506 is available through the Council Office.

Mature Workforce Committee

Committee Chair George Evanoff reported that the Mature Workforce Committee held an excellent meeting on March 6, 2008, and that Ms. Shawn Trobia reviewed the draft program for the 2008 Governor’s Conference on Aging. Additionally, Ms. Trobia distributed a draft of the Mature Worker brochure for Council review and stated that the Mature Worker track is two-thirds of the way towards having all speakers finalized. Mr. Evanoff noted that the committee had no resolutions to bring forward at this time

Social, Health & Alzheimer’s Committee

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith recognized the efforts of Ms. De Lisa in resolving several issues related to the Governor’s Conference on Aging, and Ms. De Lisa noted that the Falls Prevention Sub-Committee has completed its conference track and that the Informal Caregiving Sub-Committee is progressing with the sessions that constitute its conference track. Additionally, during the SHAC meeting, Ms. De Lisa provided an overview of the Falls Prevention and Informal Caregiving conference sessions and the upcoming March 13, 2008 Caregiver Coalition Rally.

Liaison Reports

Department of Economic Security (DES)

Mr. Rex Critchfield, Assistant Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) in DES, provided an overview of the work that DAAS is currently conducting in relation to the Caregiver Coalition Rally and direct care workforce issues. He specifically cited the efforts of Ms. Jutta Ulrich for her coordination of the March 4, 2008 Direct Care Workforce Conference held at the Sheraton Phoenix Airport Hotel in Tempe. The conference exceeded room capacity and by all accounts was highly successful. Additionally, Mr. Critchfield noted the importance of emergency preparedness and he recognized the efforts of both Ms. Valerie Fifield for pulling together a technical assistance meeting and resources for the Area Agencies on Aging, and Ms. Lynn Larsen in her coordination of the strategic planning session presented at the March 6, 2008 Area Agency on Aging’s (AAA) Technical Assistance Training meeting in Casa Grande. Furthermore, Mr. Critchfield discussed several of the current county-wide measures aimed at

addressing emergency preparedness related issues and the necessity of linking the Area Agencies and county efforts in that process. A group discussion ensued, and a question and answer period followed.

Area Agencies on Aging

Ms. Jill Harrison of the Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging reported that the March 6, 2008 Technical Assistance Training meeting in Casa Grande was an “excellent day,” and that it was extremely beneficial to hear from the numerous emergency preparedness coordinators from throughout the state who were present at that meeting. Additionally, Ms. Harrison stated that her organization is still very concerned about the FY08 budget, and she encouraged the Council to keep transportation related issues at the forefront of their advocacy efforts.

AHCCCS

Ms. PJ Schoenstene of AHCCCS provided a handout with an overview of ALTCS enrollment statistics by county throughout Arizona, and discussed the processes of both the state and federal fiscal cycles and the AHCCCS programs related to each. Additionally, Ms. Schoenstene reported that her organization’s transition program (a program aimed at assisting ALTCS members who are without household goods, furniture and utility/deposit related services, in moving to non-restrictive and appropriate environments outside of nursing homes) is still pending federal CMS approval, and that the Acute Care Request For Proposals (RFP) responses have yet to be submitted. A copy of Ms. Schoenstene’s handout is available through the Council Office.

Department of Insurance (DOI)

Ms. Erin Klug of the Arizona Department of Insurance reported that her agency is currently working on a new publication related to annuity sales and assisting individuals in making informed decisions, as well as compiling a revised listing of companies that provide long term care insurance. Additionally, Ms. Klug provided a statistical overview of the claims processed by the Arizona Department of Insurance, and she noted that there is a “movement afoot” in the U.S. Congress to evaluate abuses in Medicare Advantage Plan marketing practices.

Break

The Council adjourned for a five minute break at 10:40 a.m.

Governor’s Conference on Aging Discussion

Timelines & Session Schedules

Ms. Starns provided an overview of the timelines and session schedules for the 2008 Governor’s Conference, and noted that all conference speakers will hopefully be secured by Friday, March 14, 2008. Additionally, Ms. Starns stated that the Council Staff will be sending out formal confirmation letters to the conference’s keynote speakers shortly. A copy of Ms. Starns’ handout is available through the Council Office.

Fees & Sponsorships

Ms. Starns reported that current sponsorship levels and estimated conference fees will likely cover the associated costs of the conference, and thus the event will “break even.”

Displays and Resources

Ms. Starns reported that the conference registration form should be available electronically by the following week, and she invited the Council members to put forth any ideas that they might have regarding interactive displays as they relate to the five conference tracks.

Volunteers

Ms. Trobia discussed Council involvement and the volunteer opportunities available at the conference, and she distributed a sign-up sheet for the purpose of each Council member identifying at least two conference volunteer “jobs” that they would be willing to assist with. Ms. Trobia noted that she will try to accommodate the Council members requests based on the overall number of volunteers participating in the conference.

Lunch

The Council recessed for lunch at 11:23 a.m. for approximately 47 minutes.

Guest Presentation

Ms. Joy Cameron of the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging delivered a presentation on the work of her organization and their “Long-Term Care Solution Project.” Ms. Cameron provided an overview of the project’s model, as developed by the Moran Company economic consulting firm, and a statistical breakdown of the “fully funded plan” that ensures associated “premiums (and earned interest on investments) cover the full cost of benefits and do not add to the federal deficit.” Furthermore, Ms. Cameron discussed the solution’s three core principals: “consumer choices, financial responsibility and equity,” and highlighted the project’s estimated premium prices. A question and answer period followed. Council members were very complimentary about Ms. Cameron’s presentation and thanked her for traveling from Washington, DC to give the presentation. A copy of Ms. Cameron’s presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

Updates/New Business/Announcements

- Council member Lynn Adler expressed her gratitude to Ms. Starns for the inclusion of a link to the National Centenarian Awareness Project website within the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging’s website, and informed the Council members that a Barbara Walters special focusing on longevity and featuring Centenarian Ms. Rosie Ross of Arizona will be airing on April 1, 2008 at 10:00 pm EST on ABC.
- Council member Kati Bates provided an overview of the Attorney General’s February 19, 2008 Crime and Fraud Prevention Forum in Phoenix. Ms. Bates indicated that the event went well, was well attended, and that there were many older residents in attendance. A question and answer period followed.

Call to the Public

As there were no members of the public present, there were no comments from the public.

Action Items

- The June 5 & 6, 2008 Committee and Council meetings will be removed from the Council calendar in order to cut costs from the Council’s FY08 budget to assist in relieving overall budgetary constraints for the state.

- Council Chair Paul Herrmann will draft a letter of inquiry to the Arizona Department of Economic Security's Director, Ms. Tracy Wareing, in order to resolve the issue and expedite the delivery of travel reimbursements owed to Council members.
- The Council will draft a letter to the appropriate individuals within the state legislature expressing its support for the concept of strong protections and full disclosure for reverse mortgage loans contained within H2506.
- The Council Staff will contact the remaining conference speakers and send out formal confirmation letters to the conference keynote speakers by Friday, March 14, 2008.
- Council members will submit any ideas for interactive displays relative to the five conference tracks to Ms. Starns.
- The Council members will identify at least two conference volunteer "jobs" that they will be willing to assist with during the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging and alert Ms. Trobia to their decision ASAP.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Council Chair Paul Herrmann at 1:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be Friday, April 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.